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Director of Medical Services for the training abroad of medical officers in radiology. The details of the scheme have not yet been settled."

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I know, Sir, what class of doctors are sent on deputation? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Doctors who have got the necessary qualification are sent abroad for such post-graduate training as is required for the work we have in our hospitals."

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is it not a convention that only those who possess Civil Surgeon's qualifications are sent on deputation and not those who possess the qualification of Civil Assistant Surgeon? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, we have at present the Barnard Institute, the Women and Children's Hospital, the Madurai New College and the Mangalore New Hospital where we require radiologists with foreign post-graduate qualifications. The Director of Medical Services has proposed that two officers may be sent abroad every year for post-graduate training in radiology."

11-20 a.m. Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is there no new Post-Graduate Diploma course in the Barnard Institute of Radiology? Where is the necessity to send people at considerable expense to foreign countries? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" I am surprised at the ignorance of the hon. Member. There is only a short combined diploma course for radio therapy and diagnosis."

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is it not a Post-Graduate Diploma? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" That is not considered sufficient for teaching work by the University."

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" I will now take up the next question."

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister . . ."

Mr. CHAIRMAN :—" Order, order. When the Chairman is standing the hon. Member should resume his seat."

*Damage to standing crops in districts affected by the recent paddy pest.*

* 74 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the districts affected by the recent paddy pest;

(*b*) whether any investigation has been made as to the cause of the pest and if so, what remedial measures have been adopted to combat the same;

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(c) whether the Government have issued any pamphlet in regional language to educate the ryots about the incidence of this pest and if so, the precautionary methods they have been advised to adopt;

(d) the average percentage of damage to standing crops in each of the affected districts;

(e) whether kist remission has been ordered to be granted in such cases and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the order; and

(f) whether the Government have considered the postponement of collection of takkavi and all other agricultural loan instalments for one year in the affected areas, and if so, the districts or taluks for which such concession has been granted?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The following are the districts affected by the pests, Green Jassid and the stem-borer of paddy :—Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Tanjore.

" (b) The two pests referred to are practically prevalent in all paddy-growing areas during all the years. Their virulence and consequent damage are conditioned by seasonal factors. The binomics of pests have been studied by the Agriculture Department. Investigations were in progress at the Agricultural Research Station, Aduthurai, during the period 1950–53. Investigations have also been carried out by the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, on the measures to be adopted to control the stem-borer pest. The experience gained by this Institute was passed on to this Government by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The information received from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research was sent to the Director of Agriculture and he has been instructed to try these measures in this State. Dusting of the insecticides D.D.T. and BH6 of proper strength was advocated by the department and adopted on a very wide scale in all the districts. Insecticides were sold at the concessional rate of 75 per cent of the cost price. In areas declared as pest-affected by the Collectors concerned, the sale was effected at 50 per cent of the cost price. Arrangements were also made to distribute the insecticides to villagers through departmental lorries.

" (c) Pamphlets in regional languages explaining the symptoms and treatment of the pest-affected crops were distributed widely.

" (d) The extent of damage cannot be assessed with accuracy. However, damage ranging from 5 to 10 per cent was noted in the affected fields.

" (e) & (f) Government have ordered that remission of assessment should be granted in cases where the out-turn is less than two annas and that for this purpose the provisions of

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the Board's Standing Order No. 13 (5) should be interpreted liberally. The Government have further ordered that coercive steps should not be taken for the collection of loan instalments in certain areas. Copies[a] of the relevant orders are placed on the table of the House."

Sri K. BHASHYAM :—" Sir, in view of the length of the answer, we are not able to follow it. I request that the answer may be circulated to-morrow so that supplementary questions may be put on it."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Copies of the order have already been placed on the table of the House."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to details in the printed paper laid on the table of the House, may I know if the Government have considered any proposal for writing off the arrears of kist collection in view of the continuous drought conditions in the State for the last five or six years?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The remission would be considered according to the rules of remission."

*Branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in this State.*

* 75 Q.—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of branches of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals functioning in this State showing the number of members of each branch and to state—

(a) whether the Government have any control over the activities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints or representations regarding the persecution of ignorant people by the subordinates of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to transfer this branch of work to the regular staff of the Animal Husbandry Department?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A statement[b] showing the number of branches of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in this State and the number of members of each branch is placed on the table of the House.

" (a) The Government exercise control over the activities of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals through officers of Government who are ex-officio Presidents of the Societies.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 332–333 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix III on page 334 infra.